

Child and Family Services Update

March 2006

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Please send your comments, suggestions, and/or submissions for the Update to CAROLMILLER@utah.gov.

Snippets from the Director

By Richard Anderson

The Way of Those Who Learn

Movement toward something better is most easily achieved in an environment that promotes learning. Our field is one that offers many learning opportunities. I want to review a few key items that bring the best outcomes for learning and the most satisfaction in our work. Many of you, and many that have been with us in the past, have told me what keeps the motivation to improve in this field of social work. Since this month we celebrate the profession of social work, I thought this might be most fitting.



Here are four principles gleaned from the many talks with you about what makes for the best of those who work in child welfare and domestic violence.

Desire (wish or aspiration) – Desire to know how to best protect children and adults while supporting families in their need for and process toward change. It seems that those who excel at anything have an insatiable desire to be the best at what they do. They have a passion for the work. It is not an unleashed passion, but is very directed toward successful outcomes for those that they serve, as well as for their colleagues. **Are you motivated by your passion about this work?**

Study – Confidence comes from a firm knowledge about the work. Some of the best forms of study are experiencing, reading, and listening. The best want to know all they can about what they do. They pay the price of time and effort in study. **Are you studying your work and the works of others, i.e., observation, reading, evaluating?** (We are getting better and better at being able to study ourselves in Child and Family Services, not just to check up but to improve and celebrate success.)

Practice – Adding desire to knowledge brings the motivation to try out what has been learned. We then seek to have skills mastery. Exhilaration and personal energy come from experiencing a newly acquired skill and, in this work in particular, from knowing that the skill now provides for the safety and well-being of children and adults. **Are you moving your knowledge to practice and finding ways to improve from where you were “back when”?**

Help – Seeking assistance on our journey to become better is often rewarded with great insights, new mentors, and indelible examples that motivate us for many years. A learning environment makes it okay to say, “I don’t know.” It is safe to ask for help. **Are you asking for help from those who may know?**

A learning environment is one in which the atmosphere of desire is met with opportunities for finding knowledge and acquiring skills. We are continuously becoming more of this kind of learning environment. What I have given has come from many of you. I am trying to do what you have been doing. It isn’t easy, but it is important and it can be done. **Can you help move us along in building the learning environment?**

With the recent infestation of frogs in our offices, I decided to send you a quote that I picked up many years ago. I have had it on my desk almost forever. It makes me think about the need to tackle the big stuff in life and not to hesitate when you know you have to do something. Here it is.

*“If you have to swallow a frog, don't look at it too long
before you put it into your mouth;
and if you have to swallow two frogs,
go for the big one first.”*

--Sharon Randall





Development

Community Resource Packet

By Carol Miller, Program Support Specialist

The Administration for Children and Families has published its 2006 Community Resource Packet, which is also available online at http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention/prev_packet_2006.cfm.

Included in this packet are tips for effective prevention techniques, examples of community awareness activities, helpful ideas for parents, and other useful information for workers and families. Please click on the link provided above and download a copy of this packet for yourself. If you need some help in downloading this document, please contact me at CAROLMILLER@utah.gov and I'll be more than happy to help.

Partnership



Second Chance Employment and Information Fair

By Linda Wininger, State Milestone Coordinator

The Department of Workforce Services and the Utah Department of Corrections are sponsoring a job fair on Tuesday, March 21, 2006. You can find additional information on the Offender Help website, located at <http://www.offenderhelp.com/>. This website also has many, many links to resources for families, and we hope you find it useful in the work you do with our clients.



DCFS and DSPD Interagency Agreement

By Cosette Mills, DCFS Federal Revenue Manager

Child and Family Services (DCFS) and the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) have recently completed a new interagency agreement that addresses children whose disabilities qualify them to receive services through a DSPD Medicaid waiver. In the past, this waiver was often referred to as the "DD waiver." The waiver is now known as the Mental Retardation and Related Conditions (MR.RC) Medicaid waiver. This article highlights two provisions of the agreement: (1) Who can be referred for services; and (2) Court jurisdiction for children on waiver.

Who Can Be Referred for MR.RC Waiver Services?

Currently, there are approximately 100 DCFS clients, mostly foster children, who are receiving services through the MR.RC waiver. With the new agreement now in place,

additional children may be referred, according to provisions in the agreement indicated below.

- 1. Foster Children *Not* Having Goal of Reunification.** Disabled children in DCFS custody or in DHS custody with DCFS case involvement that meet the exceptional care needs criteria for DSPD waiver services and are **expected to remain out of home until age 18 may be directly received into waiver services when a waiver slot is available with DCFS funding.**

If the parental rights of the parents of a child in agency custody who is receiving waiver services are terminated and the DSPD provider adopts the child, the child may continue to receive MR.RC waiver services under the in-home support services category.

If the child is unable to return home and adoption is not an appropriate permanency option, according to waiver requirements, the waiver service provider is not allowed to become the child's guardian and continue as the service provider.

- 2. Foster Children With Goal of Reunification.** Disabled children with exceptional care needs in DCFS custody or in DHS custody with DCFS case involvement that have a goal of reunification **may be evaluated for DSPD services, but will only receive services if the emergency nature of the child's needs would allow access to services through the normal DSPD waiting list prioritization process,** with one exception. DCFS involvement with the family will not be factored into the prioritization decision. In other words, a foster child whose goal is reunification may not be added to DSPD waiver services based upon DCFS paying the State match.

If a child meets the level of need for DSPD services, but does not qualify to receive services immediately, the child will be placed on the DSPD waiting list. DCFS may involve DSPD with the child and family team in assessing the child's needs and available services. DCFS may arrange with DSPD for short-term disability services outside of the waiver as a support to a DCFS foster placement or to help with reunification efforts, at DCFS cost.

If a child in agency custody who was placed on the waiting list is later determined to be unable to return home, then the criteria specified in Section A, above, applies.

- 3. Non-Foster Child with CPS Supported Finding.** Disabled children with exceptional care needs who are under age 18 and are not in DCFS or DHS custody may be referred to DSPD for an evaluation for DSPD services if the following apply:

- a. There is a supported finding in a child protective services investigation involving the child as a victim of abuse, neglect, or dependency, AND
- b. Emergency circumstances make it impossible for the child to remain at home unless disability services are provided.
- c. These children will only receive immediate DSPD services if the emergency nature of the child's needs would allow access to services through the normal DSPD waiting list prioritization process, with one exception. DCFS involvement with the family will not be factored into the prioritization decision. In other words, a child who has not been removed from home may not be added to DSPD waiver services based upon DCFS paying the State match.

If a child meets the level of need for DSPD services, but does not qualify to receive services immediately, the child will be placed on the DSPD waiting list. DCFS may involve DSPD with the child and family team in assessing the child's needs and available services. DCFS may arrange with DSPD for short-term disability services outside of the waiver as a support to the family to keep the child home. DCFS has primary responsibility for these costs, but may negotiate with the local DSPD region for a shared payment arrangement to prevent removal, as funding allows.

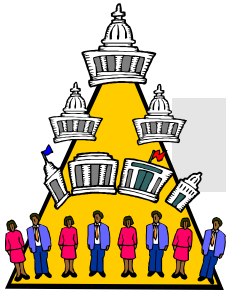
4. **At-Risk Non-Foster Child.** DCFS may refer children with disabilities who are not in agency custody, but who are at risk of abuse or neglect or at risk of removal, to DSPD for assistance in accessing community services brokers to help the family find appropriate services. **These children will not be considered for waiver services.**

Court Jurisdiction

DCFS will file a request to terminate DCFS or DHS custody with the court in a timely manner for a child who has attained age 18 and who is receiving MR.RC waiver services.

However, if a court order requires DCFS or DHS custody to continue beyond age 18, then at DSPD request, a DCFS caseworker will continue to be assigned to the case. The DCFS caseworker will take the lead in ensuring court requirements are met until the court terminates DCFS or DHS custody.

If you have questions regarding the DCFS-DSPD Interagency Agreement or would like to receive a copy of the agreement, please contact Cosette Mills at (801) 538-4058 or by e-mail at cwmills@utah.gov.



Organizational Competence

Child and Family Plan Update

By Doug Call, SAFE Information Analyst

Work on the new Child and Family Plan is progressing well towards a scheduled release at the end of this year. This new plan will be closely integrated with the new Child and Family Assessment which was released on 28 Jan 06.

The new Child and Family Assessment gives workers the ability to link together all family-related cases to better integrate services. This linking of cases to a common Assessment will carry through to a common Child and Family Plan.

All "Child/Family" Needs identified during the Assessment process are now given a status of "Proposed," which still allows a worker to edit or delete them if they do not want them to be automatically carried over to the new Child and Family Plan, as potential "objectives." This automatic transfer of Needs from the Assessment to the Child and Family Plan will hopefully eliminate the disconnect that sometimes occurs when Needs are identified during the Assessment, but never addressed in the Plan. However, even when these Needs appear in the Child and Family Plan windows workers will have the option to deal with each specific Need, in one of the following ways: Needs may be set as "Activate" in which case a worker will then identify steps and persons responsible to meet those needs, or set as "Future" to be dealt with at a future date, or they may be specified as "Resolved/Discontinued."

To prepare for the release of the Child and Family Plan we have already created a new Child/Family Plans folder in the SAFE document index where the Child and Family Assessment and a new Child and Family Team Meeting Attendance record now reside. This new folder will also accommodate the new Child and Family Plan and the following associated documents:

1. A Family Visits form, which will be required for all Out-of-Home children as part of a finalized Child and Family Plan. This new form is scheduled for release in Apr 06, and may be used for all services.
2. Out-of-Home and Home-Based Care forms were anticipated to be released prior to the Child and Family Plan, but now must be modified because of changes in TCM reimbursements.
3. Potential Crises and revised Safety Agreement forms were also scheduled for early release, but we are now awaiting change recommendations from a Safety/Risk workgroup commissioned by administration.

4. A new Court Report/Progress Summary. Programming is progressing well and these windows and forms will be ready for release with the Child and Family Plan.
5. A new Transition to Adult Living Plan. The new windows and forms will also be programmed and released with the Child and Family Plan.



Professional Competence

Employee Recognition by the Board

By Karen Sitterud

In the past several months, the Board for the Division of Child and Family Services have visited three different regions where workers have been recognized for their outstanding service to families. The Board has been very pleased to be able to meet these workers and hear about their stories and caseloads. We have found that each region has great and dedicate workers who truly care about the families in their charge.

The workers who have been spotlighted are:

EASTERN REGION	
Jennifer Robertson	Intake Worker
Tammy Ardohain	Out-of-Home Worker
Bert Bruno	Family Preservation Worker
Charity Burnside	Supervisor
Kerry Welch	Domestic Violence Worker
Michelle Ardohain	CPS Worker
Karlene Bianco	In-Home Worker
Bill Thayn	Support Coordinator

NORTHERN REGION
<i>Pam Boydston</i> , In-Home Worker
<i>Melisa Stone</i> , Out-of-Home Worker
<i>Nancy Dunn</i> , Supervisor
<i>Alice Smith</i> , Intake Worker
<i>Mike Fitch</i> , CPS Worker
<i>Laurie Fuhriman</i> , Domestic Violence/CPS Worker

SALT LAKE VALLEY REGION
<i>Jennie Farr</i> , Supervisor
<i>Stephanie Williams</i> , Intake Worker
<i>Karan Barnes</i> , CPS Worker
<i>Iris Gomez</i> , Domestic Violence Worker
<i>Brenna Brooks</i> , Permanency Worker
<i>Joseph Dudley</i> , Family Preservation Worker
<i>Kirsten Jensen</i> , Resource Family Consultant

We plan to visit the Western and Southwest Regions in the future. We want to thank each worker in the state for your unwavering efforts to keep children safe and help families to grow.

Congratulations! 

***A peak at some of the activities that took place for
our LEAP Day Celebration!***

